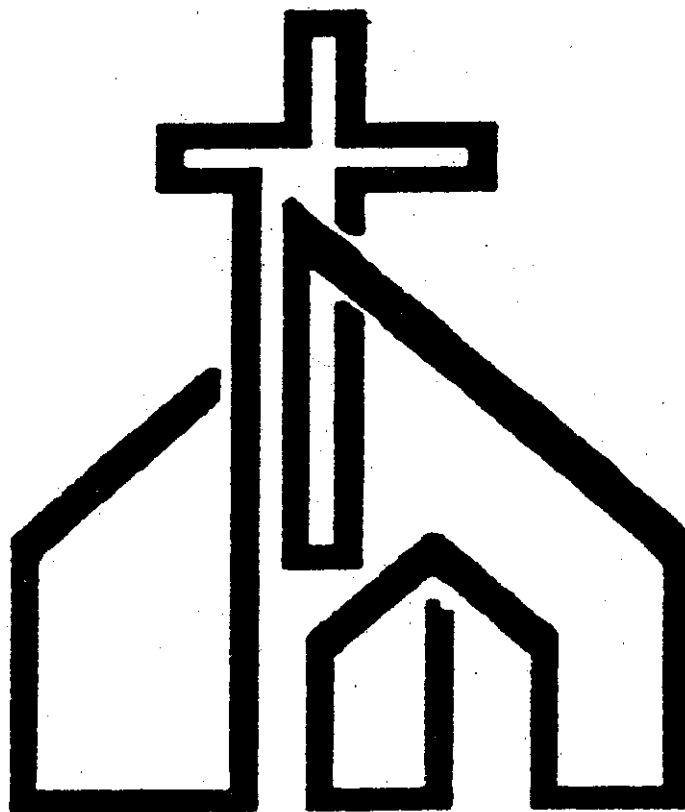


# *Epworth United Church*

**Remembering, Celebrating,  
Living the Faith**



**2016 ANNUAL REPORT  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
KINGSVILLE, ONTARIO**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**February 5, 2017**

**LUNCH: Following Church (Bag Lunch)**

**BUSINESS MEETING: 12:00p.m.**

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# *Epworth United Church*

## *Agenda for the 2017 Annual Meeting*

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **OPENING DEVOTION AND PRAYER**

**VOTING RIGHTS** - Motion to grant Adherents present voting privileges on financial or administrative matters  
(According to Section B3.7.2 of the United Church of Canada Manual)

### **IN MEMORIAM**

### **MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN 2016**

1. Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 7, 2016
2. Business Arising from the Minutes

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

1. Review of Congregational Activities for 2016
2. Motion to receive the Annual Reports of all Committees and Church Groups

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

### **ELECTIONS**

1. **Congregational Chairperson** - vote on the recommendation of the Committee of the Minister and Former Board Chairpersons
2. **Congregational Secretary** - nomination from the floor
3. **Chairperson of the Church Board** - elected annually on the recommendation of the Committee of the Minister and Former Board Chairpersons
4. **Elect Members to the Church Board** - vote on recommendation of Board Executive which acts as a Nomination Committee
5. **Elect Members to the Board of Trustees** - as required
6. **Elect Annually One Member to the Ministry and Personnel Committee**  
- individual serves a 2 year term

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGREGATION FOR 2017**

1. Mission and Service Objective for 2017 - presented by Outreach and Action Committee
2. Budget for 2017 - presented by Finance Committee
3. Appointment of Auditors for 2017

### **WORD OF THANKS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

### **BENEDICTION**

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Date: February 7, 2016

Time: 12:00 Noon

Location: Epworth Memorial Hall

### 1. Call to Order

Lisa Reive, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m .

### 2. Opening Devotion

Lisa compared Christianity to football – we must all be in the game as Christianity is not a spectator sport. Lisa closed with prayer.

### 3. Voting Rights

It was moved, seconded and carried to extend voting rights to those present who regularly contribute to the life and work of the church as provided in and under the terms in the United Church Manual.

### 4. In Memoriam – Remembrance

The Rev. John van Omme read the 22 names of those who passed in 2015 and remarked that 2015 was a quieter year for funerals. Rev. John mentioned that there have been 141 persons pass away in the past 5 ½ years. A tribute prayer followed.

### 5. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting

It was moved, seconded to adopt the minutes of the February 1, 2015 Annual General Meeting. There was one correction noted – on page 3 above section (d) the figure should be \$79,000, not \$25,000. The motion passed with the one correction.

### 6. Business Arising

It was noted on page 3 of last year's minutes that ELK was to be contacted to help with forecasts for expenses for the future. Has this been done – no not yet.

### 7. Annual Reports

A power point summary of the highlights of each committee's reports as printed in the annual report was presented by Lisa.

CD is responsible for the development of the church family. Special thanks are extended to Larry and Debbie Baker and Eric De Luca for their continued support and help over the year.

Finance – goal for general offering was \$146,573 but \$154,553 was actually received which is 105% of the goal – well done. Fund raising goal for the year was set at \$25,000 with \$12,592 actually raised – a very good effort for the first year. Presbytery dues for 2016 have been raised.

Outreach and Action support many local initiatives such as GessWood Camp and the local KDHS snack program as well as two foster children.

Property is responsible for the maintenance of the building and special thanks are extended to the many volunteers who worked on the flower beds and the maintenance of the yard.

Question of property – there was a boiler repair done in 2015 and the furnace is over 20 years old – are there problems? The furnace has been checked and there is no mention of problems. If the furnace has to be replaced, there is no dollar figure known for the replacement.

Worship co-ordinates services and plans pulpit supply or organ supply when needed. It was mentioned that if Bob Kissner retires as the organist, the cost to hire a new organist will be significantly higher than what we are paying Bob as Bob does it partly for the love of playing the organ.

Memorial Committee is a standing committee of the board and so is represented at the Board Executive. Each year they prepare a Memorial service in memory of people who have made contributions to Epworth and have passed on.

M & P are responsible for the “care” of the employees in regards to salary, benefits etc.

Trustees have the task of making sure we are adequately insured.

Fund Raising – if anyone has any ideas for fund raising events please present them to the committee for consideration.

Accessibility – the Church Board Executive is in charge of accessibility matters.

Presbytery Reps – Lisa and Marjorie Reive along with Rev. John represent us at Presbytery each month. 2016 London Conference is being held in London hosted by Essex Presbytery.

Other Groups – the Breakfast Bunch donated part of their proceeds from brunches to the Fund Raising committee.

UCW play a vital role in the workings of the church by preparing lunches for funerals and church functions and providing help where and when needed in other areas.

It was moved, seconded and carried to receive the printed committee reports as presented in the annual report.

#### 8. Pastor's Report

Rev. John mentioned that we had an active year in 2015 and Kingsville is an active community. Thanks are extended to all for kind words, thoughts and deeds following Linda's accident in May.

Rev. John also mentioned that as well as organizing an active fund raising committee, the congregation was also asked if they could contribute a bit more to the weekly offerings. Thanks are extended to Leon Barlow, current chair of Finance, for his leadership over the last 10 years and we wish him well in his retirement from the Church Board.

We need to challenge the young people to start attending church as our numbers are small.

We need volunteers to come forward to serve on the Church Board as a full board is needed to get the work done.

Thanks to Debbie who is a joy to work with and also to Bob Kissner, Dorothy Baldwin and Jim Heath for their efforts on behalf of the church family.

Don Coghil has shown incredible leadership in his 2 years as Board Chair and thanks are extended to Don.

It was moved, seconded and carried to receive the Pastor's report.

## 9. Elections

Rev. John assumed the chair.

- A) Lisa Reive was nominated for the position of Chair of the Congregation. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. It was moved, seconded and carried that Lisa assume the position of be Chair of the Congregation for the coming year.
- B) Gord Queen was nominated for the position of Secretary of the Congregation. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. It was moved, seconded and carried that Gord assume the position of Secretary of the Congregation for the coming year.

Lisa resumed the chair.

- C) Chair of the Board  
Larry Baker was nominated by a unanimous vote to assume the role as Chair of the Church Board. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. It was moved, seconded and carried that Larry assume the position of Chair of the Church Board for the coming year, beginning in July 2016.
- D) Trustees – no additional trustees are needed. It was moved, seconded and carried to confirm and record the names of our present Epworth United Church Trustees: Rev. John van Omme, Ken Womack, Marguerite Elliott, Marie Bailey, Doug Quick, Ray Allen, Barb Fick, Don Skeates, Gord Queen (noting the Church Board chair is a corresponding member of the Board of Trustees.
- E) Church Board Elections – Don Coghill presented the list of names to be elected to the Church Board as follows: Marg E. Stevens, Jane Bowen, Anita Nicholson, Janet Jones, Eleanor Buchanan, Fran Coghill, Ray Allen, Don Skeates, Marguerite Elliott, Norm Buchanan, Adele Sims, Michelle Bishop, Bob Newman, Ken Womack, Garry Bishop, Gord Queen, Lisa Reive  
It was moved, seconded and carried that these names be accepted to the Church Board.
- F) Ministry and Personnel – Marguerite Elliott has one more year of her term on M & P. Larry Baker was nominated to the M & P committee for a two year term. It was moved, seconded and carried that nominations be closed and it was moved, seconded and carried that Larry Baker be elected to the M & P committee.

## 10. Mission and Service Objective 2016

It was moved, seconded and carried that Epworth's Mission and Service Objective for 2016 be set at \$7500.

## 10. Budget Deliberations

Mr. Leon Barlow, Chair of Finance, presented the budget for 2016.

Salaries – all salaries were increased by 1.5% - CRA's increase was 1.7% and United Church of Canada was 1.2% so Epworth picked middle ground.

Property – highest expenses for property are utilities – gas, water and hydro with the largest being gas.

CD and Worship are praised for their frugality but are encouraged to spend more in 2016. Worship has in their budget money for guest musicians that should be looked at and spent. Pulpit Supply budget is under spent because of the joint services with Ruthven/Olinda and Trinity-New California.

Outreach and Action could spend more in 2016. Money for the refugees could come from World Outreach or Local Outreach programs in their budget.

Total disbursements for 2016 in the budget is shown as

\$206,229.

Receipts portion of the budget

Total receipts budget, from all sources, is shown as \$205,815.

We are showing a slight deficit budget of \$414.00 for 2016

We ended 2015 with a surplus.

The decision has been made to repay ½ of the outstanding loan to Special Projects in the amount of \$2500.

The question was asked where the money in Special Projects comes from – from contributions in the envelopes and some estate funds as well as other donations.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the 2016 budget be accepted in its entirety.

#### Review Engagement Report

It was moved, seconded and carried that Hicks, McPherson, latonna and Driedger be retained to conduct our yearend financial review.

We have no complaints with our auditors and we receive a discount from them.

#### Other Business

It was mentioned that we do a lot of good things in and through the church but never get noticed. Could we put a write up in the Kingsville Report, maybe once a month? It was noted that not all articles submitted to the Reporter get printed.

There is a web site called Kingsville Happenings; maybe we could get something on there.

There is a need for us to get out and tell people who we are and invite them to join us for Sunday service.

#### Thank You's

Lisa thanked, on behalf of the board, the dedicated volunteers and staff who keep us going day to day, month to month.

Thanks to the UCW for the set up for today's meeting.

Thanks to Marg for filling in for Gord Queen.

Don Coghill thanked Lisa and Gord for their leadership role in conducting the Annual Meeting.

Our best wishes go to Lee Queen who recently had knee surgery.

#### Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

#### Benediction

Rev. John gave the closing benediction.

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Lisa Reive  
Congregational Chair

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Marg E. Stevens  
Acting Secretary

**MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
EPWORTH UNITED CHURCH**

February 05, 2017

*When as a child I laughed and wept,  
time crept.  
When as a boy I dreamed and talked,  
time walked.  
When I became a full grown man,  
time ran.  
Then later, as I older grew, time flew.  
Soon I shall find, while travelling on,  
time gone.*

[found on an old clock in Chester Cathedral]

Time sometimes appears to go faster the older I get or perhaps there is more and more to do or perhaps it takes longer to get the same tasks done. This is my seventh year as your pastor and it continues to be a pleasure to work with such fine people. The decision to accept a call to this community was a good one from my own and my wife's perspective and we continue to enjoy the ministry. *[However, there are days when ministry feels like herding cats.]*

Epworth has many treasures and two of those is having a very experienced and competent church secretary/ book keeper and organist/choir director. It has been a pleasure working with both with Deb and with Robert over the last year.

When it comes to writing a report of this nature one almost needs to be in a contemplative mood with a view both to the immediate past and the near future and to put on one's wisdom cap to make prognostications as to the future of the church in Kingsville based on current trends.

One of the overwhelming realities at Epworth is the passing of so many of our long term members of the congregation. People like Jack Queen, Marjorie Reive, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ray Allen and Iris Hodgkins are but a few of the weekly parishioners who have left an empty pew. Others have also passed whose weekly contact with the congregation had diminished previously because of reduced health, change in living situations, etc. They are all sadly missed. In total, 33 persons associated with the Parish Role died in this past year. That is the largest number per year since my arrival 6 1/2 years ago. As a result of the aging of the congregation there have been 166 deaths since my arrival. A small number have been from the community but the vast majority have been from the church's



parish list. Not only are these folk missed on Sunday but their gifts are also missed in the church's finances and in its governance. As a result volunteers are constantly in need to run committees, the Board, fund raising events, etc.

We have also been privileged to welcome a number of new faces to the congregation and we are always delighted to welcome new people hoping that they will eventually become full members of the church both in terms of weekly worship attendance and contributors to the life and work of the congregation. I would best not try to name them for fear I miss someone and would unknowingly offend them.

This year we built on the success of last year's song service that celebrated Robert Kissner's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as church organist. 2016 saw a wonderful service of celebration on April 10<sup>th</sup> with the South Shore School Choir as our guest performers, as well as our very own Epworth Trio, the Epworth Chancel Choir and the Epworth Bell Choir. The event was well received so much so that a second song service was held on Dec 11. The School Choir was again our guests and it was again well received. The wonderful ministry of music has been a strong area in the life of the Congregation and a huge thank you to all involved. We regret the retirement of our pianist Dorothy Baldwin but we were pleased to recognize and to thank her for 6 years of musical ministry at the piano. Thank you Dorothy!

Summer services were again shared with the New California and Ruthven-Olinda congregations. This year the shared services covered a ten week period from July 03 to September 04. Four services were held at Epworth in July and three each at Ruthven-Olinda and New California. We were even able to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on July 03 at Epworth with both Rev. Olav and myself officiating. Attendance was good usually exceeding 80 persons per Sunday at Trinity and Ruthven and slightly more at Epworth. This year's services were at 10 a.m. and were well received. It is hoped that this ministry will continue into the future including the summer of 2017. *[Along with fellowship with other churches the shared ministry results in saved pulpit supply costs for each of the churches involved.]*

In 2016 the Bible study group completed their study of the book of Job and commenced a new study on Galatians and James. For the last few years we have had sufficient numbers to run two groups, Tuesday evening and Wednesday afternoon but in the fall we were able to hold only the Wednesday group of approximately 12 – 14 people. Currently three members of Ruthven-Olinda church have been able to join the study group.

In July the mantle of leadership of the Church Board shifted from Don Coghill to Larry Baker. Don provided excellent leadership to the Board for a two year period from July 01, 2014 – June 30, 2016 and we thank him profusely for his time, his skills, and his calm and well balanced approach to the Board leadership. Larry was offered the challenge of Board leadership at the recommendation of his peers and confirmed by the Congregational Annual

meeting and has met the challenge well. Both men have put in many, many hours of additional volunteer time in fund raising, church events etc. Both men have led by example.

On April 17 the congregation was delighted to host the OddFellow and Rebekah Lodges for their annual church parade. A good turn out from the lodge was realized and a luncheon was held in Memorial Hall following worship. I was again honoured to be invited to present the message for the Lodges' Annual Memorial Service in June at the Unico Hall. My presence was well received.

On the last Sunday of May we remembered and heard the story of 24 former members of the congregation. Surviving family members were invited and a good turnout was present to hear the stories of former members of the congregation who have moved on to their reward. Our Congregational Life Committee provided a spectacular luncheon following the service.

On Oct 30<sup>th</sup> we held our annual All Saints Sunday recognizing the passing of 21 members of the congregation in the past year. With the calling of the names, a candle was lit, preferably by a family member, in that person's memory and a photo, if possible, was placed on the communion table.

2016 marked the arrival of 25,000 refugees to Canada from war torn Syria. Essex Presbytery decided as a group to sponsor 1 family to come to the Windsor area and as a result, Epworth was able to support the project. Slightly over \$1300 was raised by the congregation to support our Family.

Epworth staff continue to provide leadership for chapel worship in the three major retirement homes in Kingsville; Royal Oak, Southgate and Kingsville Court. Marjorie Reive had been our faithful volunteer organist/pianist for the last 5 ½ years. As a result of her untimely passing new leadership had to be sought and we thank Linda Bennett for agreeing to take over that ministry of music. Dorothy Baldwin has also agreed to fill in while Linda is away on holidays. A huge thankyou to all three ladies for their willingness to undertake this ministry. Every 6 weeks or so I also provide leadership to the chapel service at Leamington District Memorial hospital.

For the last 7 years I have been asked to provide the message at the Kingsville Court annual Memorial Service and as a member of the Pastoral Care Committee at Royal Oak I function in a variety of roles with their semi-annual Memorial Service. Also in the last two years I have been asked to provide the inspirational message for the Annual Lights for Life at the Leamington District Memorial Hospital.

I currently serve as secretary of the LDMH Religious & Spiritual Care Committee and I am on the On-call Chaplain list as an available chaplain for 24 hour call in the case of an emergency. Normally I would be on call for approximately 8 weeks of the year for this purpose. The demands have not been too overwhelming except that I don't sleep as soundly at night knowing that I could be called to the hospital at any hour.

My presbytery role has shifted this year with my supervisory role with Bedford United Church being discontinued at the end of June and the beginning of my new relationship with the Conference as Essex Presbytery's representative to the Conference Executive. So far it has meant two - one day trips to London this fall and three or four telephone conference calls. It has also meant attending the Executive meetings of Essex Presbytery. Following Linda's accident I felt the need to reduce if not discontinue most of my "other church" work but I have resumed much of that work, currently living up to my responsibilities to serve the greater church.

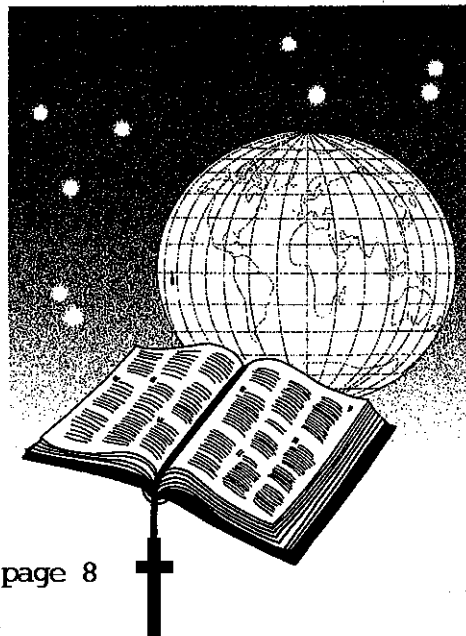
The previous writing is a partial accounting of the past year and the question arises as to where to from here. If we continue to have the tremendous loss of so many of our church members, it won't be long before we will have greater and greater difficulty paying our bills. In four (4) years the Manse Fund will be depleted and the cost of housing amounting to \$17,000 per year will have to come from congregational givings. We were very fortunate to end up in the black at the end of 2016 and I want to thank **everyone** for their tremendous financial support. However, every time someone dies it is one less person in the pew on Sunday morning and one less person supporting the church financially. It may not be inconceivable that in the not too distant future we may have to seek additional partnerships with other United Church congregations in the area to maintain ministry here in Kingsville. There are a number of possible scenarios but it always requires compromise and a willingness to give up something in order to get something else. Unfortunately in the last two years both Lincoln Road United Church and Mersea United Church have had to close their doors. Who will be next?

This may seem a little negative but it is the new challenge for the future. We will continue to do the Lord's work as best as we can and I invite you along for the journey.

Thank you for the tremendous support for my wife and I throughout this past year and Lord willing we will continue to be with you into the future. It is a pleasure being your pastor, your preacher, your friend.

God bless!

Rev. John



## 2016 CHURCH BOARD EXECUTIVE

Minister	- Rev. John van Omme
Chairperson	- Mr. Donald Coghill (until June 30/16) - Mr. Larry Baker (starting July 1/16)
Secretary	- Mrs. Marg Stevens
Faith Formation & Christian Development	- Miss Lisa Reive
Finance Committee	- Mr. Don Skeates
Outreach & Action	- Mr. Donald Coghill
Property Committee	- Mr. Barry Pettapiece
Worship Committee	- Ms. Adele Sims
U.C.W. Representative	- Mrs. Marjorie Reive

### PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES:

Mrs. Marjorie Reive & Miss Lisa Reive

CONGREGATIONAL CHAIRPERSON: Miss Lisa Reive

CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY: Mr. Gord Queen

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS OF THE CONGREGATION

<b>December 31, 2015</b>	<b>RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS</b>	<b>551</b>
	(Including In-Active Members)	
<b>2016</b>	<b>- RECEIVED BY PROFESSION OF FAITH</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>- RECEIVED BY TRANSFER CERTIFICATE</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2            553</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>- REMOVED BY DEATH</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>- REMOVED BY TRANSFER CERTIFICATE</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>- OTHERWISE</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19            535</b>
	<b>RESIDENT MEMBERS</b>	<b>- 319</b>
	<b>NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS</b>	<b>- 143</b>
	<b>IN-ACTIVE MEMBERS</b>	<b>- 73</b>
	<b>TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016</b>	<b>535</b>

## DURING 2016 OUR MINISTRY INCLUDED

29 FUNERALS	2 WEDDINGS	6 BAPTISMS
		1 Adult Baptism

**The following were received by ACT of CHURCH BOARD:**

Tom Malott

**The following were received by PROFESSION OF FAITH:**

Jane Bowen